

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02778 131550Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9767
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO PCE LEGALIZATION

REF: MADRID 2678

1. ADDITIONAL PRESS AND POLITICAL REACTION TO PCE LEGALIZATION
CLOSELY FOLLOWS THE PATTERN REPORTED REFTEL: WIDESPREAD
SUPPORT FOR THE GOVT ACTION, EXCEPT AMONG ALIANZA POPULAR
AND THOSE TO ITS RIGHT.

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2. SUMMARIZING ADDITIONAL PRESS REACTION FROM THE MADRID
DAILEES:
INFORMACIONES (CENTRIST- APPROVED THE DECISION,
CALLING IT "ANOTHER POINT IN FAVOR" OF THE SUAREZ
GOVT, COLUMNIST ABEL HERNANDEZ CALLED THE DECISION
"DIFFICULT AND ALMOST HEROIC"
DAIRIO 16 (LEFT LEANING SENSATIONALSIT) APPROVED

STATING THAT THE DECISION "CONTRIBUTES TO RATIONALIZING THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY". HOJA DEL LUNES (MODERATE) CALLED THE DECISION "INDISPENSIBLE". YA CATHOLIC CENTRIST) WHILE MAINTAINING A "FIRM ANTI COMMUNIST POSITIO", SUPPORTED THE LEGALIZATION FOR PRAGMATIC REASONS, CITING THE NEED TO HOLD DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS WITH MAXIMUM POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION. EL ALCAZAR (RIGHTIST CNC ORGAN- NATURALLY OPPOSED, CHARGING THE GOVT WITH "PERJURY" AGAINST ITS PVIOUS ANTI COMMUNIST PROMISES AND NOTING SIGNIFICANTLY THAT IN A FREE COUNTRY EACH CITIZEN MINISTER OR WORKER HAS A RIGHT TO MAKE HIS OWN POLITICAL CHOICES. A LATER EDITION GAVE HEADLINE ("RED AND REPUBLICAN FLAGS) COVERAGE TO THE PRO COMMUNIST STREET DEMONSTRATIONS THAT FOLLOWED LEGALIZATION", CALLING THEM TYPICAL OF THE PARTY'S TRUE NATURE AND SPECIFICALLY CITING THE INSULTS TO PUBLIC ORDER AND THE ARMY. THIS REACTION TO WHAT WERE, IN FACT QUITE PEACEFUL RALLIES MAY WELL BE SYMPTOMATIC OF RIGHTIST OPINION. SUBSEQUENTLY EL ALCAZER BROKE THE STORY OF THE NAVY MINISTER'S RESIGNATION (SEPTEL) IN A BRIEF AND GENERALLY FACTUAL COLUMN, ALTHOUGH ERRONEOUSLY STATING THAT THE AIR MINISTER HAD ALSO RESIGNED.

3. OF THE POLITICAL FIGURES TO COMMENT, THE MOST IMPORTANT IS ALIANZA POPULAR LEADER FRAGA WHO REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED THE DECISION AS "A VIRTUAL COUP D' ETAT. GRAVE POLITICAL ERROR. JUDICIAL FARCE AND LOSS OF LEGAITY AND LEGITIMACY". HE CAST DOUBT ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEGAL BASIS FOR THE GOVT'S DECISION, AND CLAIMED THAT HE HAS "TREATEDNED" (BY PERSONS UNNAMED BUT CLEARLY LEFTIST) BUT WOULD WILLINGLY RISK HIS LIFE IN DEFENSE OF THE PEACE OF SPAIN.

4. FURTHER POLITICAL REACTION IS SUMMARIZED BELOW: THE PCE, IN ITS OFFICIAL STATEMENT AFTER LEGALIZATION Q. STATED THAT ". UPON EMERGING FULLY INTO THE LIGHT THE PCE REITERATES ITS FIRM INTENTION TO CONTRIBUTE WITH ALL ITS FORCES AND HIGESTS RESPONSIBILITY TO BURYING DEFINIATEY THE REMNANTS OF THE CIVIL WAR" JOSE PRAT, PSOE "HISTORICAL" FACTION, SUPPORTED LEGALIZATION AND URGED SIMILAR ACTION FOR ALL PARTIES WITHOUT EXCEPTION JOAQUIN GARRIGUES WALKER (LIBERAL) CALLED IT " A GOOD THING) JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PATRIARCH), SPEAKING STRICKLY ON HIS OWN BEHALF", APPROVED THE DECISION. STABLER

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Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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